



Sudbury Catholic Schools Celebrate the Start of the New School Year at a Leadership Retreat

Vice-principals, principals and Sudbury Catholic Schools staff joined senior administration at a special retreat held at the Sportsman's Lodge on Kugagami Lake to celebrate Catholic leadership and to unveil the launch of the board's new vision for the 2008-09 school year. During the two-day event elementary and secondary school principals and vice-principals learned about effective leadership. They were introduced to a new and powerful set of leadership tools that were developed by and for Ontario educators. Catherine McCullough, director of education for the Sudbury Catholic District School Board stated,

We all know and we recognize leadership as one of our key professional responsibilities. However, in the face of dozens of administrative tasks, day-to-day problems and issues, leadership often remains an abstract concept. One of the many positive outcomes of this retreat is that it provided our principals and vice-principals with the Provincial Leadership Framework that has been tailored to their roles and responsibilities as school leaders.

McCullough also noted that as educational leaders, principals and vice-principals are contributing to one of the most exciting

and challenging periods in the history of Ontario's education system. Targets being set and achieved in Ontario have put our education system on the world stage as a centre of excellence. Patty Orecchio, program developer and Barbara McMorrow, professional learning director for the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario lead the group through the Catholic Leadership Framework section of the workshop. According to them no two regions, school boards or schools are exactly alike. Achievement targets and leadership challenges also differ. It is for this reason that the framework has been designed to address the specific needs of both school and system leaders. It also provides a core vision of leadership and a common leadership language that, for the first time in Ontario, will provide a seamless alignment of leadership across the entire education system. The framework engenders a powerful collaborative approach to leadership and professional learning.

The Sudbury Catholic Schools' principals and vice-principals would like to thank the Institute for Education Leadership and the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario for sponsoring this leadership retreat.